

**Senate File 2187 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2187

BY KINNEY

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act establishing an Iowa employment and education rides  
2 initiative and related fund in the state department of  
3 transportation.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1     Section 1. NEW SECTION. 324A.8 Iowa employment and  
2 education rides initiative — grant program — fund.

3     1. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise  
4 requires, "*employment and education transportation*" means an  
5 urban or rural program or service that provides an individual  
6 with transportation solely to or from a workplace or adult  
7 education venue, including but not limited to a community  
8 college, evening or weekend class, apprenticeship program, or  
9 job training program. Such urban or rural program or service  
10 includes but is not limited to the following programs and  
11 services:

12     a. Expanding or sustaining existing transportation services  
13 or service hours, including nights and weekends.

14     b. Coordinating ride share services, including car pool or  
15 van pool services.

16     c. Shuttle services.

17     2. The Iowa employment and education rides initiative  
18 is established in the department to provide funds to public  
19 transit systems for programs and services that provide  
20 employment and education transportation to Iowans.

21     3. The department shall award funds from the initiative  
22 on a competitive grant basis. A grant shall not exceed  
23 one hundred fifty thousand dollars. A grant application  
24 shall contain a commitment from the public transit system  
25 of at least a dollar-for-dollar match of the grant funds  
26 awarded. Grant funds shall be used only for operational costs  
27 directly associated with providing employment and education  
28 transportation and shall not be used for capital expenditures  
29 or construction.

30     4. A public transit system may coordinate with other local,  
31 state, or federal governmental agencies and private nonprofit  
32 organizations in the administration of a program or service  
33 receiving a grant under the initiative and in expenditure of  
34 grant funds.

35     5. The department shall, by January 1 each year, submit

1 a report to the general assembly on the outcomes of the  
2 initiative, including the grant amount, the type of program or  
3 service receiving funds, and the number of individuals served  
4 for each grant awarded by the initiative. As a condition of  
5 having received a grant from the initiative, a public transit  
6 system shall provide the department with information on any  
7 program or service for which the public transit system is  
8 awarded a grant from the initiative.

9 6. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A  
10 to administer the initiative, including but not limited to an  
11 application process and grant award criteria.

12 7. *a.* An Iowa employment and education rides fund is  
13 created in the state treasury under the control of the  
14 department. The fund shall consist of moneys appropriated to  
15 the department and any other moneys available to, obtained, or  
16 accepted by the department for placement in the fund.

17 *b.* Moneys in the fund shall be used to provide grants under  
18 the Iowa employment and education rides initiative established  
19 in this section.

20 *c.* Moneys in the fund are not subject to section 8.33.  
21 Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest or  
22 earnings on moneys in the fund shall be credited to the fund.

23 EXPLANATION

24 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
25 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

26 This bill establishes an Iowa employment and education rides  
27 initiative in the department of transportation to provide  
28 funds to public transit systems for programs and services that  
29 provide employment and education transportation to Iowans.

30 The bill defines "employment and education transportation"  
31 as an urban or rural program or service that provides an  
32 individual with transportation solely to or from a workplace or  
33 adult education venue, including but not limited to a community  
34 college, evening or weekend class, apprenticeship program, or  
35 job training program. The urban or rural program or service

1 includes but is not limited to expanding or sustaining existing  
2 transportation services or service hours, including nights and  
3 weekends; coordinating ride share services, including car pool  
4 or van pool services; and shuttle services.

5 A "public transit system" is defined under Code section  
6 324A.1 as an urban or regional transit system providing  
7 transit services accessible to the general public and receiving  
8 federal, state, or local tax support.

9 The department shall award funds from the initiative on a  
10 competitive grant basis. A grant cannot exceed \$150,000. A  
11 grant application must contain a commitment from the public  
12 transit system of at least a dollar-for-dollar match of  
13 the grant funds awarded. Grant funds can only be used for  
14 operational costs directly associated with providing employment  
15 and education transportation and cannot be used for capital  
16 expenditures or construction.

17 The bill permits a public transit system to coordinate  
18 with other local, state, or federal governmental agencies and  
19 private nonprofit organizations in the administration of a  
20 program or service receiving a grant under the initiative and  
21 in expenditure of grant funds awarded.

22 As a condition of receiving a grant from the initiative,  
23 a public transit system must provide the department with  
24 information on any program or service for which the public  
25 transit system is awarded a grant. The bill requires the  
26 department to submit an annual report to the general assembly  
27 on the outcomes of the initiative, including the grant amount,  
28 the type of program or service receiving funds, and the number  
29 of individuals served for each grant awarded by the initiative.

30 The bill requires the department to adopt administrative  
31 rules to administer the initiative, including but not limited  
32 to an application process and grant award criteria.

33 The bill creates an employment and education rides fund in  
34 the state treasury under the control of the department. The  
35 fund shall consist of moneys appropriated to the department and

1 any other moneys available to, obtained, or accepted by the  
2 department for placement in the fund. The moneys in the fund  
3 shall be used to provide grants under the Iowa employment and  
4 education rides initiative established in the bill.